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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

TENERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)	
)	CC Docket No. 92-77
Billed Party Preference for)	
InterLATA 0+ Calls)	

AMERITECH REPLY

The Ameritech Operating Companies (Ameritech) respectfully submit this Reply to MCI's two-page Opposition to Ameritech's Petition for Stay and to APCC's Comments on this request.

1. MCI Opposition

MCI's Opposition purports to make just two points. It claims that (i) "the Commission's rulemaking and order clearly apply to all interstate 0+ calls;" and (ii) the Bell operating companies (BOCs) are not the only carriers that complete interstate intraLATA calls, and that Ameritech's assertion that callers who place 0+ intraLATA interstate calls are already protected by the Commission's price caps regime is, therefore, wrong.

MCI's arguments are so thin as to barely warrant response. Indeed, MCI seems to have submitted this Opposition strictly as a nuisance pleading - which would not be unusual for that particular company. Nevertheless, Ameritech makes the following points in reply.

No. of Copies rec'd_____ List ABCDE First, in its Motion for Stay and Petition for Reconsideration or Clarification, Ameritech provided extensive background, not only on the history of this proceeding, but on the consumer abuses to which it was directed and the panoply of legislative and regulatory responses to those abuses. Ameritech demonstrated in exhaustive detail that, from the inception of this proceeding until the issuance of the *Second Report*, the Commission and all participating parties focused exclusively on 0+ interLATA services.¹ In the face of this detailed showing, which MCI ignores, MCI's unadorned, one-sentence claim that this proceeding clearly applies to intraLATA traffic is entitled to no weight.

Second, contrary to MCI's claim, Ameritech did not assert that the BOCs are the only providers of intraLATA interstate traffic. What Ameritech <u>did</u> say and what MCI could not dispute - is that the BOCs are the only providers of 0+ intraLATA interstate traffic. Since the Commission's rate disclosure requirements apply only to 0+ traffic, Ameritech was, in fact, correct when it stated that all consumers of 0+ intraLATA interstate services are already protected from rate gouging by the Commission's price cap regime.

A number of other parties make the identical point. See Bell Atlantic Petition at 1; BellSouth Petition at 3; and US West Petition at 5. See also Response of the Competitive Telecommunications Association to Petitions for Reconsideration at 2, which notes that "[t]hese petitions raise some meritorious arguments regarding whether intraLATA calls were ever considered part of the proposals advanced in this docket..." CompTel goes on, however, to misconstrue Ameritech's Petition as seeking relief only for local exchange carrier (LEC) operator service providers (OSPs). In fact, Ameritech asked the Commission to stay application of its rules to all 0+ intraLATA services, regardless of who provides such services. Indeed, Ameritech noted that the rate disclosure requirement may have unintended anticompetitive consequences even in the interLATA market and suggested that a stay might be warranted for interLATA, as well as intraLATA services. See Petition for Stay at note 6.

2. APCC Comments

APCC takes no position on Ameritech's petitions but states that

Ameritech appears to ignore the fact that the rate disclosure requirement is

limited to calls from aggregator locations. Ameritech should have addressed
this point in its initial petition and now provides the clarification APCC seeks.

Although the Commission limited its order to calls originating from aggregator locations, Ameritech's operator switches cannot distinguish those calls from other 0+ intraLATA calls. Although Ameritech can distinguish payphone traffic from other traffic, it cannot distinguish, for example, a call that originates from a hotel, motel, or hospital from any other call for purposes of this requirement. Thus, in order to comply with the Commission's requirement, Ameritech would have to provide the required notification on all 0+ intraLATA traffic.²

Respectfully Submitted,

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May 7, 1998

Indeed, as Ameritech noted in its Petitions, it also cannot distinguish at this time between intraLATA intrastate and intraLATA interstate traffic. Thus, not only would Ameritech have to provide the notification on all 0+ interstate intraLATA traffic, but also on all intrastate intraLATA 0+ traffic.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Toni R. Acton, do hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Ameritech Reply has been served on the parties listed on the attached list, by First Class Mail, on this 7th day of May, 1998

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